

MERCATOR:

O R,

Commerce Retrieved,

B E I N G

CONSIDERATIONS on the State of the *British* Trade, &c.

From Thursday, November 19. to Saturday, November 21. 1713.

*The Dispute of the French Trade brought to a narrow Compass.**Notes on the great Quantities of Sugar, Tobacco, &c. Exported to France, notwithstanding the present Disadvantages of the high Duties in France.**The Case stated and proved, (viz.) That by the Treaty the Trade not only may be to our Advantage, but that it is in our Power to make it impossible to be otherwise.**The Mercator Challenges the Authors on the other side to answer it, and offers a second time to lay down, if they can Confute him.*

After what has been published in the last *MERCATOR* of the Exportations during the last Year made to France, together with the daily Vent of our Goods thither, as may be seen by what is published from the Custom-House every Day in the *MERCATOR*; what can any Man think of those, who should stand in their own Light so much, and in their Country's Light so much, as to prevent this Trade being brought to such a Magnitude, as it is evident it would be, if this Treaty were made Effectual.

Let us view a little Two or three of the Articles, which have been most Quarrelled by the Opposers.

First, say they, Our Tobacco is not set free to be Sold in France but to the Farmers, and they must make a Monopoly of it, and by that means we shall send but little Tobacco; these were the very Words: Now before this Matter is settled at all, and while the Farmers in France enjoy this very Monopoly, as aforesaid, yet has our Export thither been, as in the last *MERCATOR*, Two Millions Three hundred and odd thousand Pound weight of Virginia Tobacco; and we have sent above Four hundred thousand Pound weight thither since that Account ends, which is between Six and seven thousand Hogsheads, besides all the Virginia Tobacco gone into France from Holland, Flanders, Scotland, Ireland, and by Entries to the Streights, which the *MERCATOR* has great Reason to believe amounts to above Two thousand Hogsheads more.

Come we next to the brown Sugar: The Town cannot be ignorant, under what Disadvantages it lies, and how the Sugar Refin'd is a reserved Species, and left to be settled by the Commissioners, who are to meet.

Yet even under all the Disadvantages and extravagant Duties now laid on in France, we Exported the last Year above 2600 C. weight of brown Sugar, besides other ways, as above.

The like to be said of Leather Tanned, Leather Wrought, Block Tin, Pewter, and such Manufactures or Produce of England, the Duties of which are, tho' very great in France, yet tolerable, and will admit some Trade.

The Red and White Herrings are the like, and yet we see above 1500 Barrels taken by the French; had the Treaty been settled, it might have been 17 or 18 Thousand Barrels, as formerly had been.

But as to our Woollen Manufactures there, the Duties in France being unsufferable, no less than 50 or 70 per Cent. we see, as it were, almost an entire stop, except what is privately carried in, other ways.

To what a melancholy Posture is our Trade brought by these Men, that we must stand still and see our selves shut out of our own Trade, and the Exportation of Three or four hundred thousand Pounds of our Woollen Goods a Year stopp'd, and those Goods kept at home for the meer Caprice of a Party Quarrel among our selves, and upon a bare Notion, without any Proof at all, that if we should send ever so many Manufactures out, we shall buy nothing but Wine and Brandy with the Money.

If it is true, that the People of Britain are such Drunken People, and that we shall Consume all our Exportation in Wine and Brandy; the *MERCATOR* can put them in a better way to prevent its coming, than by stopping our Woollen Manufacture from going out: For why must the Poor be Ruined to prevent the Excesses of the Rich? It is evident the poor Manufacturers drink but little of the Wine, nor do they care, whether ever we Import any Wine or no.

The First thing a Trading Nation has to do, is to open all the Channels of Trade, which can be found out, at which the Growth and Produce of their Land and Labour of their People can obtain a Vent; that they may cause as much of it as is possible to be Exported.

IF



If in the Returns for these, any thing is found to come home, which the Luxury and Vices of the said Nation prompts them to call for in such Quantities, as are detrimental to the Trade, or to the People, or to the National Wealth; it is the Nations next work to make such Prohibitions, or lay such Burthens on the Importations of the said Goods, as may check the said Luxury and Vice; and lessen the Consumption of the said Goods.

But nothing can be with any Prudence done to stop the Exportation of their own Goods: That should have all possible Encouragement, because it is the Life of the very Nation, the Bread of the Poor, and the Foundation of National Wealth.

To bring this to our Case: The first thing the Nation has to do in the French Trade, is to open all the Channels of our Exportation, by getting all the Prohibitions, high Duties, and other Obstructions of our Trade to France taken away, that we may have as free and full a Trade, and as open a Market for our Manufactures in France as possible; and *this is done by the Treaty of Commerce now on foot*, by which the Duties on our Goods in France are all taken away back to the Year 1664.

But, say the Opposers, this cannot be done without a reciprocal taking off the high Duties here from their Goods back to the Year 1664 also; by which their Goods will come in upon us to such a degree, as will over-balance our Trade. This is a fair, and plain, and full state of the Question, though in few Words. *For Answer:*

1. If this had not been a notorious Falshood, the *MERCATOR* would never have written one Word in this Cause; and as the whole Weight of the Objection lies upon this Point, so the *MERCATOR* is contented, that the whole Merit of the Answer, and Credit of the Authors on both sides, shall turn upon the Question, Whether this be a Truth or no?

2. In order to resolve this, the *MERCATOR* affirms, and offers to prove, That by this Treaty the Door is opened to our Manufactures and all our Exportations into France, upon better Terms, than has ever been for 47 Years past; and, that it is not left to the French to shut it again.

3. And that, *on the other hand*, greater Interruptions are left upon the French Importations here than ever were before; and Power is left us, if they are not already great enough, to make them greater at any time hereafter till they shall be sufficient to make the over-balancing our Exportations impossible; and that therefore the Trade cannot be to our Disadvantage: And this the *MERCATOR* thinks is enough to the Case.

Either this is True, or it is False: *If it is False*, the *MERCATOR* Challenges all Men to confute it, and appeals to the Treaty it self for the Matter of Fact; *If it be True*, What wicked Work have the Opposers of the Treaty of Commerce been employed in! How have they been assisting to Starving our Poor! and promoting that just Complaint of the Deadness of our Trade! Let us then Examine the Case, and let this Dispute be put to an End; and let Them, or the *MERCATOR*, be for ever silent, as this Part is, or is not true; for the whole Matter entirely and singly depends upon it. The *MERCATOR* lays it down thus, and will undertake to make it out.

All the high Duties in France upon, and all the Prohibitions of our Manufactures or other Goods, are, when this Treaty is made Effectual, taken off back to the Year 1664, the Exceptions already spoken of excepted, which are to be spoken of by themselves.

By this every one must allow, that an open Door will be given to our Exportations into France.

Nor is the French King to lay on those Duties again. If that were possible to be suppos'd, then were it no Treaty at all.

Thus much for the French side.

On the English side, extravagant high Duties remain on the French Goods; some three times as high, some eight times as high, some twenty times as high as they were before, and equal in some Cases to a Prohibition; as, in the Alamodes and Lustrings.

But, to put the Objectors out of Countenance even at themselves if they could blush, As if all this was not enough, the Makers of this Treaty not presuming to take upon them, as was Feloniously done in the Portugal Treaty, to limit the Power of Parliaments by the strained Authority of an Ambassador, have left it in the Breast of the Parliament of Britain, if they should find the Trade to the Disadvantage of their Country, by too great a Quantity of French Goods coming in upon us; to lay whatever farther Duties they shall think fit, now or at any time hereafter, till the said over-balancing be made impossible.

This Power the *MERCATOR* affirms, from the Treaty it self, is left in the Parliament of Britain, either at the making the Treaty Effectual, or at any time after it, were it never so many Years hence: And this shall be proved in our next.

This is the second time the *MERCATOR* has Challenged the Authors on the other side to silence him effectually, and offered to lay down, and never write more, as he Now offers, if they can confute this.

And why do they beat the Bush, and fight in the Air? *Here is the Bird*, let them Catch it — If the French are tied up, and we are left free! If the English Trade is opened, and the French shut up! If our Trade shall be more than ever, and their Trade hither less! If it is in the Treaty, that they CANNOT over-balance us, or in our Power, if we find they do, to put a Stop to it! Then what have these People been saying, and where are our Senses, when we oppose this Trade!

Let them Contradict one Tittle of this if they can; if they cannot, they are no more British Merchants, but Betrayers of the British Merchants, and Traytors to their Country.

Tesse MERCATOR.

From the CUSTOM-HOUSE.

Goods Exported to France in 3 days, Nov. 14, 16, 18.

	56 Pictures
46 Fod.	14 C. Lead
	140 C. Lead Ore
	124 C. Red Lead
	439 C. Copperas
*	36 C. Tin
	1 Ton Cheese
	10437 l. Cotton Wooll
	300 qr. Barley
*	780 yds. Flannel
	5 Ton Brazilletto
	12270 l. Virginia Tobacco
*	14955 l. Virginia Tobacco
	135 C. Logwood
	4 C. Galls.



LONDON: Printed for BENJ. TOOKE, at the Temple-Gate; and JOHN BARBER, on Lambeth-Hill. (Price 3 Half-pence.)